

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 DPW-01 NEA-09 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

NIC-01 EB-07 OMB-01 OES-03 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIEP-01 FPC-01 INT-05 SAM-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03

/119 W

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P R 080815Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4102

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOV 1092

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: OECD, ENRG, XZ, SW

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MFA SECRETARY GENERAL

1. I CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SVERKER ASTROM AT HIS REQUEST MARCH 6. ASTROM SAID THERE WERE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS HE WISHED TO RAISE; HE SIMPLY WISHED TO CONTINUE OUR ROUTINE OF MAKING A TOUR D'HORIZON AT FREQUENT INTERVALS. AMONG THE SUBJECTS HE DISCUSSED ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. OIL PRICE FLOOR--ASTROM SAID GOS HAD NOT YET ARRIVED AT A DECISION ON A FLOOR PRICEFOR OIL, AND WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION IN LIGHT OF SWEDISH STATUTES.

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ASTROM ASKED ME IF FRENCH HAD INFORMED US IN ADVANCE OF THEIR PLAN

TO ISSUE AN INVITATION FOR A PREPARATORY MEETING. I REPLIED THAT THEY HAD, AND IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, I SAID THE FRENCH HAD CONSULTED US IN ADVANCE ON THEIR PROPOSAL.

B. SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY DETS--WHEN I OBSERVED THAT THE ANNUAL FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE WOULD BE HELD IN THE SWEDISH RIKSDAG MARCH 19, ASTROM REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE "NOTHING TO WHICH YOU COULD TAKE EXCEPTION" IN THE STATEMENTS TO BE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE. I SAID I CERTAINLY HOPED THAT WOULD BE THE CASE, TO WHICH ASTROM RESPONDED "XU CAN RELY ON THAT."

C. NORDIC UN POLICY--ASTROM NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A MEETING OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MARCH 20-21 IN HELSINKI AND THAT IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED AT THE MEETING THERE WOULD BE A STATEMENT POINTING TO THE DANGERS OF "MAJORITY TYRANNY" IN THE UN. WHEN I ASKED IF THE STATEMENT WOULD MAKE THE SAME POINT THAT AMBASSADOR SCALI HAD MADE IN HIS DECEMBER SPEECH TO THE UNGA, ASTROM REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

D. MIDEAST--ASTROM SAID THAT BY CHANCE HE HAD MET FORMER FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER COUVE DE MURVILLE IN PARIS, AND LATTER HAD HARANGUED FOR 30 MINUTES ABOUT PRESIDENT GISCARF D'ESTAING'S "CAPITULATION" TO THE US ON THE MIDEAST. ASTROM DESCRIBED DE MURVILLE AS A "GAULLIST ABORIGINE." CONTINUING, ASTROM SAID SADAT HAD TOLD THE SWEDES DURING THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO CAIRO THAT HE CONSIDERED THE SUPERPOWER "BALANCE OF POWER" IN THE MIDEAST AS ESSENTIALLY CONSERVATIVE, AND THAT ISRAEL AFTER 1967 HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE SUPERPOWERS' PENCHANT FOR PRESERVING THE STATUS QUO TO BELIEVE THAT IT COULD RETAIN ITS CONQUESTS AND NEED NOT COMPROMISE. FOR THIS REASON, SADAT TOLD THE SWEDES, HE HAD DECIDED TO ATTACK IN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK RESULTIV FROM THIS SUPERPOWER "CONSERVATISM," AND ATTRACT THE SUPERPOWERS' ATTENTION TO THE MIDEAST. AND, SADAT CLAIMED, HE HAD "SUCCEEDED."

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E. SWEDISH-SOVIET RELATIONS--ASTROM WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO PERSUADE ME THAT SWEDISH-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. HE SAID THW THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD HAD A LONG TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON AND DID NOT ONCE MENTION SWEDISH ENTRANCE IN THE IEA, THE SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN THE STARFIGHTER REPLACEMENT COMPETITION, OR ANY OF THE OTHER COMPLAINTS AGAINST SWEDEN VOICED BY SOVIET ORGANS SUCH AS IZVESTIA AND TASS.

(STOCKHOLM 0711). I THEN ASKED ASTRM IF ANY SOVIET OFFICIAL HAD EVER RAISED THESE ISSUES WITH THE GOS, AND ASTROM REPLIED "NO, NEVER. I HAVE THE FEELING THEY (THE SOVIETS) DO NOT WANT TO ESCALATE THINGS AT ALL." AT THE END OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S CALL, ASTROM ADDED, HE HAD REFERRED TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND SWEDEN AS "NEIGHBRLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE," WHICH ASTROM CLAIMED IS HIGH PRAISE IN THE SOVIET NOMENCLATURE WHEN REFERRING TO RELATIONS WITH NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS.

2. COMMENT: IN ASSERTING THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER COMPLAINED TO THE GOS ABOUT ALLEGED DEPARTURES FROM SWEDISH NEUTRALITY, ASTROM IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENTS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDEKSON IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH A STOCKHOLM PAPER THAT THERE HAD BEEN "NO CONTACTS" WITH THE SOVIETS ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, BOTH STATEMENTS ARE AT VARIANCE WITH RELIABLE EMBASSY INFORMATION THAT A VISITING SOVIET DIPLOMAT HAD MADE INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MFA CHIEF OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS EARLY LAST MMTH (STOCKHOLM 778 AND 711). IF ASTROM IS, INDEED, DISSEMBLING ON THIS POINT, THIE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GOS EFFORT TO PLAY DOWN THE RECENT IRRITATIONS IN THE SOVIET-SWEDISH RELATIONSHIPS: THE LESS SAID ABOUT THE QUESTION THE BETTER.  
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